



United States Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 10 2014

Ms. Alison Dettmer
Deputy Director
California Coast Commission
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Ms. Dettmer:

Thank you for your letter of June 16, 2014, to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regarding coordination with the California Coastal Commission (CCC) on activities involving hydraulic fracturing and other well stimulation techniques on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Our offices are responding jointly.

Your letter raises concerns about when the Department of the Interior will coordinate with the CCC, and when the CCC and other interested parties will have the opportunity to review proposed new hydraulic fracturing activities on the Pacific OCS.

Hydraulic fracturing on the Pacific OCS occurs relatively infrequently. Currently, BSEE's Pacific Region office has no pending applications to use hydraulic fracturing or other well stimulation techniques, and it is unknown when any further applications to employ the techniques will be submitted. However, should we receive any such applications, BSEE will coordinate with the Commission and share information, as appropriate. Further, consistent with our practice, the NEPA review of the application will be commensurate with the potential impacts of the activity, as called for in the regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500 and 43 CFR Part 46).

In preparation for any new applications for permit to drill that may include hydraulic fracturing as defined by California law and Senate Bill 4, we are compiling additional information about well stimulation techniques. This information will provide context for hydraulic fracturing practices on the Pacific OCS, particularly with respect to the range of environmental issues that have been raised in the public forum.

BOEM and BSEE will continue to work closely with the Commission regarding our collective obligations under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Should you have any further questions, however, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jaron Ming", with a stylized flourish at the end.

for
Jaron Ming
Regional Director
Pacific OCS Region, BSEE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ellen G. Aronson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Ellen G. Aronson
Regional Director
Pacific OCS Region, BOEM

cc: EPA Region IX
California Department of Conservation